

**Statement by Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty,
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and
Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy
at the 67th General Conference of IAEA**

Madam President/Mr. Vice President, Excellencies,
Ladies, & Gentlemen,

Namaste and Good morning!

It is an honour to represent the Government of India at this August forum. On behalf of the Government of India, I warmly greet the International Atomic Energy Agency and its Member States.

Madam President,

2. Please accept our heartiest congratulations on your election to the post of the President of the sixty-seventh session of the General Conference of IAEA. I assure you of India's full support and cooperation.

3. Keeping in mind the pivotal role of the IAEA in global nuclear cooperation, I take this opportunity to reiterate India's strong support for the Agency in its efforts to promote peaceful uses of atomic energy.

4. We also warmly welcome the newly elected members of the Agency. We congratulate Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi for his re-election as DG of IAEA. We wish him all the best for his new tenure.

5. Our close exchanges and productive engagements mark India's longstanding partnership with IAEA on a range of nuclear domains, including nuclear energy, nuclear sciences and applications, nuclear safety and security, nuclear safeguards, and technical cooperation.

6. India fully supports IAEA's efforts to mitigate the global cancer burden through the Agency's '**Rays of Hope**' programme. It is a matter of honour that the Tata Memorial Centre and its nine satellite centres is becoming an IAEA Collaborating Centre: an Anchor Centre under the Rays of Hope initiative

7. Continuing the tradition of harmonious engagements, in May this year, the Indian delegation led by Chairman Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) participated in the Joint 8th and 9th Review Meeting (RM) of Contracting Parties (CPs) of Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS). All challenges and suggestions that emanated from the 7th review meeting were closed, and no new challenge was identified for India.

Madam President

With great pride, I would like to mention some of the achievements of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, since we met last September 2022:

8. **Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited** has been setting records in continuous power plant operations and maintaining excellent safety records. One remarkable achievement is that unit-3 at Kakrapar in the Gujarat state of India recently commenced commercial operation, the first of its kind 700 MW indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR).

9. **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** has uncovered beneficial applications of radioisotopes and radiation in agriculture, medicine and industry through scientific research. India's Low Energy High-Intensity Proton Accelerator (LEHIPA) at BARC has reached the target energy of 20 MeV, making it the highest-intensity proton accelerator developed in the country. All significant sub-systems of LEHIPA have been designed indigenously by DAE scientists and engineers.

10. Fission Molybdenum-99 Plant (FMP) of the **Board of Radiation & Isotope Technology (BRIT)** was dedicated to the Nation by our honourable Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi, on 11th May 2023. Molybdenum-99 produced at FMP can fulfil

the entire country's demand and is also available for export to neighbouring countries.

11. **Heavy Water Board (HWB)**, the largest global producer of heavy water, has been exporting Heavy Water to several countries for non-power applications. Heavy Water Board has successfully produced medical grade water enriched with oxygen-18.

Madam President

12. **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)** successfully tested the flight of the Space Exploration Capsule of M/s Halo Space (Spain) from the TIFR Balloon Facility, Hyderabad, on 7th December 2022.

13. **Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology (RRCAT)** continued to operate Synchrotron Radiation sources Indus-1 and Indus-2 as a National Facility in round-the-clock mode. Three RRCAT-made High Beta 650 MHz cavities have been successfully tested and integrated into the PIP-II project's first prototype Cryomodule at Fermilab, USA.

Madam President

14. **Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC)** has produced a PET radiopharmaceutical, Copper-64-

Chloride from solid Zinc-68 target using 30MeV Medical Cyclotron Facility at VECC, Kolkata. Copper-64-Chloride is a Theranostic radiopharmaceutical used for therapy and also diagnosis of cancer.

15. **Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC)** has indigenously developed a new State-of-the-Art Automated Machining Centre contributing to the Government of India's initiative of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

16. **Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL)** developed a Facility for the production of Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (Samarium-Cobalt) in the BARC Campus, Vizag and the same was dedicated to the Nation on the 25th anniversary of the "National Technology Day" on 11th May 2023

17. **Electronic Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL)** continued to support the Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR) programme and supplied 382 Ultra stable High Voltage Power Converters . ECIL, for the first time, indigenously developed the Calorimeter, which will serve the requirement of all the country's nuclear re-processing / waste disposal facilities.

18. The **Institute for Plasma Research (IPR)** demonstrated 1 MW RF Power at 170 GHz for 1000 second at ITER-India Gyroton Test Facility, as part

of its collaboration with ITER for development in Fusion Technologies.

Madam President

19. A few days ago, India hosted the G20 Summit. Where Energy security, access, affordability, and transition are essential considerations. Under India's Presidency, the countries that opt to use civil nuclear energy reaffirmed their role in providing clean energy. These countries will now collaborate in research, innovation, development & deployment of civil nuclear technologies, including advanced and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

20. India firmly believes that ensuring the safety and security of nuclear and radiological materials is a shared responsibility of all member states. India will continue to support the Agency in its efforts to provide a robust, sustainable and visible global nuclear safety and security framework.

21. We thank the city of Vienna, the people and the Government of Austria for hosting the General Conference of IAEA. India remains committed to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, both on research and application fronts. We wish the 67th General Conference a grand success.

